

1 Understanding the Reading. The reading gives ways in which the American public has kept the love of celebrity news, gossip, and photos alive over time. Look at the events listed below, and explain how each event has contributed to our obsession with celebrities.

1. Going to the movies became popular in the early 1900s.

2. In 1926, *National Enquirer* is founded.

3. The TV set began selling for under \$200 in 1947.

4. The TV newsmagazine, *Entertainment Tonight*, first airs in 1981.

5. The Internet exploded into American life in the 1990s.

6. Reality shows become a reality.

2 Reality Check. Read the following section about reality shows. It gives information about a disturbing syndrome that doctors are seeing now that reality TV programming is so widespread. Answer the questions below using complete sentences.

In recent years, doctors are seeing a new type of mental disorder relating to reality shows. Experts are calling it Truman syndrome after a 1998 movie. In the movie “The Truman Show,” actor Jim Carrey stars as a man whose life is normal until he finds out that none of it is real. He is actually living his life on a TV set. His friends are actors. And every moment of his life is being shown on TV.

In real life, Truman syndrome affects a person’s belief system about the world at large. Nothing seems real to them. Some patients even bring up “The Truman Show” when discussing their symptoms with their doctors. In 2006, doctors who researched reality TV disorders presented their findings at medical schools across the nation. By the end of 2008, about 75 people had been diagnosed with Truman syndrome.

Some experts say the syndrome shows just how strong the effect of pop culture is on mental disorders. But one of the researchers says he does not believe that reality shows can make healthy people sick. He believes that people who would become ill anyway are just becoming ill more quickly or in a different way.

1. Do you watch reality TV shows? If yes, which ones? What do you like about them? If you don’t watch them, why not?
2. Have you or someone you know seen the movie, “The Truman Show?” If yes, describe what you or they remember about it.
3. Do you think a person can develop a mental illness from watching too much reality TV? Why or why not?

4. Do you think that watching too much reality TV can affect how a person thinks about real life? Why or why not? What effect do you think it might have?

3 Synonyms and Antonyms. If the pair of words is similar in meaning, write *synonyms* on the line to the left. If the pair is opposite in meaning, write *antonyms*. The first one has been done to get you started.

<u>antonyms</u>	1. beautify—disfigure
_____	2. executive—laborer
_____	3. advent—introduction
_____	4. fantasy—reality
_____	5. obsession—indifference
_____	6. extricate—shackle
_____	7. engrave—carve
_____	8. neutral—prejudiced
_____	9. imaginary—fictional
_____	10. phase—aspect
_____	11. publicize—conceal
_____	12. reliable—trustworthy
_____	13. retain—discard
_____	14. inquire—respond
_____	15. contestant—competitor
_____	16. worldwide—universal

4 The Suffix -ist. The suffix *-ist* indicates a person who does, makes, produces, operates, plays, or is connected with a particular thing. Match each person below with the response he or she might make after having read the article about celebrity.

activist
alarmist
anthropologist

archaeologist
conformist
dramatist

etymologist
hypnotist
journalist

meteorologist
nonconformist
novelist

- | | |
|-------|--|
| _____ | 1. "Some people think TV shows do the same thing I do every day—put people in trances." |
| _____ | 2. "Creating a cast of characters who live in modern America but have never seen a magazine, movie, or TV show would make a very interesting plot for my next book." |
| _____ | 3. "With all the channels on cable and satellite TV these days, not as many people go to the theater." |
| _____ | 4. "Maybe I can get an interview with a reality show contestant and submit a story to my magazine publisher." |
| _____ | 5. "I'm so disturbed by the trash that's on TV these days that I'm going to organize a campaign and get everyone to write our Congresswoman immediately." |
| _____ | 6. "I want to read some more studies of cultures that don't have TV or movies before I draw any conclusions about how they affect people." |
| _____ | 7. " <i>Celebreality</i> is a word that combines the words <i>celebrity</i> and <i>reality</i> . It was created to describe the TV shows that put current or has-been celebrities in a reality-show format." |
| _____ | 8. "If I were living hundreds of years from now, I wonder what my reaction would be upon digging up a battered TV set among the ruins of some civilization." |
| _____ | 9. "If I'm right, we are all just actors in one big show that the world is watching!" |
| _____ | 10. "If all my friends watched the latest cable TV shows and I didn't, I'd really feel left out." |
| _____ | 11. "Just because most people watch TV doesn't mean everyone should. I don't even own a TV!" |
| _____ | 12. "TV offers round-the-clock weather forecasts for everyplace in the world. It's easy to find what the weather will be where you live." |

5 Working with Headings. There are many different types of TV shows that people enjoy watching. Put the correct heading with each group of words that describe things you see on a TV show. Study the example before you begin.

Cooking Show
Crime Drama

Game Show
Nature Show

News Broadcast
Newsmagazine

Sitcom
Sporting Event

1. **Cooking Show**

restaurant chefs
healthy recipes
food competitions
quick meals

2. _____

taped laughter
funny characters
day-to-day life
weekly show

3. _____

celebrity gossip
interviews with newsmakers
movie previews
Hollywood romances

4. _____

political figures
national and international events
breaking news
live news conferences

5. _____

police officers
criminals
evidence
FBI agents

6. _____

domed stadiums
All-Stars
athletic equipment
championship trophies

7. _____

dangerous animals
wilderness encounters
jungle explorers
natural disasters

8. _____

trivia questions
money and prizes
word puzzles
host or hostess

Extra Credit. If you watch TV often, these categories might remind you of shows you have seen. Can you name a TV show or a network that fits each category?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____